

REMARKS

This Response is made to the Office Action dated February 1, 2007. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following discussion concerning the cited prior art.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7-20 are allowed and that claims 2, 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,730,725 to Yoon (the "Yoon patent"). Applicant, however, strongly disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the Yoon patent. First, it is noted that the Yoon patent is directed to a medical instrument used in performing endoscopic procedures in which organ structures within an anatomical cavity are separated or elevated by the use of an inflatable balloon supplied by medical instrument. The size and shape of the inflatable balloon in the Yoon patent is created by a movable collar 20 slidably disposed on the outer surface of instrument. The Yoon patent simply does not provide a catheter assembly for delivering a medical device, such as a stent, for implantation in a patient.

The Examiner has apparently relied upon the embodiment of Figures 4C and 4B in the Yoon patent in rejecting claim 1. However, the components identified by the Examiner as the inner member 16 and outer member 18 in the Yoon patent are not dimensioned for axial movement. Rather, in the all of the embodiments depicted in Figures 1-4F, the distal ends of the inner member 16 and outer member 18 are sealed to each other at a circumferential distal seal 30 (See Fig. 1 and Column 7, lines 9-12). In the particular embodiment depicted in Figures 4C and 4D, the inner member 16 lacks an expanding member connected thereto, as recited in the claims. Rather, the locking member 187 disclosed in the Yoon patent, interpreted by the Examiner as the expanding member 187, is connected to the inside surface of the collar 20 which is disposed coaxially around the outer member 18. Moreover, the outer member 18 lacks an opening, as recited in claim 1. Figure 4D of the Yoon patent shows that the locking

member 187 pushes up against the wall of the outer member 18 when placed in a locked position. This again is due to the fact that there is no opening in the outer member 18 to receive the locking member 187. Moreover, since the components identified by the Examiner as the inner member 16 and outer member 18 are required to be sealed to each other, the outer member 18 cannot possible be retracted relative to the inner member 16 to uncover an medical device mounted on the inner member 16, as recited in claim 1. For at least these reasons alone, the Yoon patent fails to disclose even the most basic structure recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the Yoon patent as an anticipatory reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at 310-824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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